WILL SOCIETY'S FROWN MAR MRS. R. W. GOELET'S ROMANCE AS IN CASES OF KATHERINE ELKINS AND DOROTHY DEACON?

'ORIENTAL BEAUTY' IS REPORTED FRETTING AT SOCIAL BARRIERS

Gossips Declare Mother-in-Law Goelet Will Cause Son's Wife to Join Katherine Elkins and Dorothy Deacon in Her Losing Fight to Force Recognition of Ultra Set—Katherine Elkins Has Just Divorced Billy Hitt and New York Wonders if Present Romance Will Be Similar.

NEW YORK, Feb. 4.

HOWEVER those outside its fringe may scoff at the artificiality of society, that exclusive group, on either continent takes itself and its formulae of position with extreme seriousness.

That one may come to the very m of the select circle, but not be shie to penetrate that line, howver powerful the influence assisting, has been made strikingly evident in two sensational matrimonial disruptions in the past week, and rumors that a third is

In each instance unhappiness as been derived largely from the fact that the barrier of society has been adamantly immovable as the Rock of Gibraltar. Each of the women has striven with force of personality and power of wealth to pierce the rim and each has been flung back with bruised ambition, sore heart and angered determination to drop the futile ambition to attain and unattainable goal

PRINCESS' PLIGHT.

A spectacular instance of soclety's antagonism is seen in the plight of the Princess Radziwill, the former Dorothy Deacon, of She has induced the Vatican to grant an annulment of her marriage on the grounds she was forced into the match by her ambitious mother.

It is no secret that this match demanded by the mother, whose career had banned her from social standing, and who for naign for reinstatement in society. Her goal seemed to have been achieved when she impelled her daughter to marry a title. But she reckened without the potency of society's frowns, for her titled caughter never was recognized by her husband's kin as of equal

standing with him. There is another unique angle this case in that the Princess the sister of Gladys Deacon, who became the Duchess of Marlborough when the Duke of Marlborough was divorced by the former Consuelo Vanderbilt. Twice the Descon family has garnered titles. Once the quest proved fatal to happiness. Whether the match with the English title will continue to be happy is a subject of society speculation that has thus far found no negative an-

KATHERINE ELKINS' CASE.

Another instance of court socisty's scowis and refusals to enfold those not born to the purple is brought to mind in the unfortunate entcome of the marriage of Katherine Elkins, West Virginia belle, and William F. ("Billy") Hitt, of Washington, D. C. She has just obtained a divorce in Paris because their incompatibility.

Those who know the couple trace their unhappiness back to Miss Elkins' ill-fated romance with the Duc d'Abruzzi, who was barred from marrying her by the stern epposition of the royal family of Raly. He was warned that if he took the girl as his wife she would get no social recognition at the Italian court.

Rather than go through life as wife without a wife's full rights the spurned the title and married the American. But that romance has now proved to have been a vain quest for happiness.

They may that events of a kind happen in threes. Katherine Elkine has divorced "Billy" Hitt. The Princess Radziwill has obtained an annulment. And now the gossips in society aver that Mother Ogden Goelet shortly will witness the separation of her son. Robert Wilson Goelst, and the wife whose entrance into society she has helped to prevent.

WIFE DENIES BREAK.

Both Goelet and the former Fermanda Rocchi Riabouchinsky, the fancer whose "Oriental beauty" greated a sensation when she arrived here a few years ago, have senied there is any rift in their

She has within a few days pointout that they are about to sail for Burese with their baby on a sure trip. They insist they are living tegether in utmost content. But the gossips will have their sig-

nificant whisperings.

The denouement of the Elkins-Hitt match has startled society of two continents, for the romance that in their union in 1913 after a long quest of her hand by Hitt and the Duc d'Abruzzi, made a most absorbing narrative of persistence and rivalry. Only fifty-three words were required to break the tie. It is the shortest decree on record in Paris. It says:

"Mrs. Hitt, having legally summoned her husband to reagmit her to the conjugal domicile, received the reply, 'Mrs. Hitt's insistence surprises me. I refuse to see her again and only ask her to quit bothering me.' This repry constitutes a sufficientry grave insult to justify granting a divorce in favor of Mrs. Hitt."

Her demand for "readmittance to the conjugal domicile," is said by her friends to have been a formality preliminary to filing the divorce action.

The Radziwill denouement was not unexpected. It had been known almost from the start of her married life that the former Dorothy Deacon was unhappy. She has now convinced the Vatican that the match was not of her volition. It is significant that close upon the annulment it is rumored she will marry Count Palfy, of Hungary.

As to the Goelets, society is merely conjecturing.

MISS ELKINS' ROMANCE.

Probably the most famous of these matches was that which ended the decade-long pursuit of Katherine Elkins by Hitt and the Duke. A splendid horsewoman and formerly a belle of Washington society, the daughter of the late United States Senator Stephen B. Elkins, of West Virginia, was one of the most prominent young women in America. She is a sister of Senator Davis Elkins, of that State. Her grandfather was the late Henry Gassaway Davis, onetime candidate for Vice-President.

William F. R. Hitt, popularly known in Washington as "Billy," is the son of the late Representative Robert R. Hitt, of Illinois.

"Billy" Hitt is always present at the brilliant events of the Capital. He is surely and safely ensconced in society's roster. His is a personality that won him the widely known nickname of "Billy" Hitt. They like him and respect him. But his personality and popularity have not been strong enough to hold Katherine Elkins.

For years, through his youth and the girlhood of Katherine Elkins, he had sought her favor. He seemed to be winning her love when the Duc d'Abruzzi, of royal blood and a noted sportsman, entered the field.

THE DUKE'S WOOING.

Time and time again it was reported that the girl was secretly engaged to the duke. Always she denied these rumors. And there always came emphasis to these denials in the fact that constantly beside her was "Billy" Hitt whereever she traveled.

But two continents maintained for ten years an incessant speculation as to the outcome of this thrilling quest of her hand by the wealthy American and the royal Italian. It seemed there never would be an end to the wavering hesitance of the girl in choosing between the two men who loved her and for each of whom she felt a deep affection.

Senator Eikins died in 1911. The Washington Times learned that a contributing factor to his illness was the stress on his nervous system growing out of his daughter's reported engagement to the duke. Three years before the Senator had given the duke his consent when the duke asked for Miss Elkins' hand.

Then came obstacles. The duke elated beyond clandestine possibilbreathed his overet to the

THE futility of fighting society for admittance to the exclusive set when society "turns thumbs I down" has been exemplified in the romances of these three women, Katherine Ekins, daughter of a Senator; Dorothy Deacon, who became Princess Radziwill, and the second Mrs. Robert W. Goelet, who, it is said, has found too hard the task of breaking into society against Mother Goelet's scorn. Katherine Elkins has divorced "Billy" Hitt; Princess Radziwill has obtained an annulment, and it is rumored the Goelets will part.

possess in common—compatibility. She finds her recreation in horse shows and in feats of horsewomanship, for which she was for many years noted. She participates in the Capital's most brilliant events. Wealth and standing are at her command. But her life, perhaps, has held less happiness for her than the shop girl or factory lassie who seeks no social recognition and is content with whatever lot in which marriage may place her. TWICE LINKED IN SPELL. Twice Katherine Elkins has been linked with thrilling romance. And twice she has found that her romances did not hold enduring love. The man she liked the better did not have the stamina to sacrifice standing for love. The man to whom she turned did not have the power to hold the heart he had won. The plight of Dorothy Deacon has been of a different kind. She went to Rome last year in successful quest of an annulment. Announcement of the Vatican's decision was made recently. Her ground was that she was forced into the marriage by the ambitions of her mother. Dorothy Descon is the daughter of the late Edward Parker Deacon Italian court. Instantly there make you both happy. Think it

arose the problem of what his wife's status would be.

Opposition to the marriage became united in the royal family. Miss Elkins might become a duchess, but could assume no official standing in the court.

In vain the duke pleaded. He found his appeals futile and came to America to consult with the

He suggested that perhaps Miss Elkins would be satisfied with a title that held no official standing

"Is that so?" cried the Senator. "If my daughter becomes the Duchess of Abruzzi she will be the duchess in every sense of the word. I don't object to a money settlement, if that is required. But I want my daughter to be the wife of the man she marries and to have the same rights as she would in this country. Do you catch my

The duke caught his meaning. Retorted the Senator:

"Well, see what you can do." The distracted suitor returned to Rome and renewed his pleadings. They continued in vain. The court was inexorable. Post haste he sped back to West Virginia. His sincerity impressed Senator Elkins. But the statesman shook his head determinedly and said:

"It's no use. If you love my daughter why don't you give up the Italian court? Why don't you marry here where we don't bother about royalty? Live here as an American. I will give you all the money you need. I will put you in business. Neither you nor the girl will lack enything. That's a reasonable proposition. She loves you. You love her. I want to

The duke accepted the amazing problem for reflection. His heart grappled with his head. Love found his loyalty to the Italian court superior to the yearnings in his heart. So the engagement came to an abrupt end.

The sorrowing duke went into the polar regions to forget the woes of his romance. He went hunting. He went on cruises with the Italian navy. He climbed the Himalayas. He gave himself up to any and every pursuit that would make him forget.

And Senator Elkins, disappointed that his prospective sonin-law should have failed to show the bumption he hoped for and had been willing to spurn a girl that he might retain his social status, thereafter declared his daughter would marry none other than an American.

Senator Elkins, then in all health, was further enfeebled by the unhappy outcome of his daughter's love for the duke. Of course, there was "Billy" Hitt, but everybody, probably even "Billy," knew that although she was fond of both her determined suitors, it was toward the Due d'Abruzzi that the heiress' heart inclined. BILLY WINS-AND LOSES.

The West Virginia belle went to Europe chaperoned by her mother, Hitt accompanied them. When the two women refurned "Billy" was still with them.

For two years his persevering quest for the girl's hand and heart continued with percasing fervor and finally she surrendered They were married in October, 1913.

Mrs. Katherine Elkins Hitt, who has just obtained a divorce.

"Ah, it will be a happy union," predicted their friends. For had not "Billy" been the most persistent of admirers? Had he not given his years and early manhood to his consuming determination to win Miss Elkins? And was it not evident that however much she was fond of the Duc d'Abruzzi, she also was quite fond of "Billy" Hitt?

But society guessed wrong. Their happiness was not prolonged. They had been compatible as friends and principals in a startling love game. They found each other incompatible as man and wife. It proved to be the case of a charming woman and a popular man who found that what they had interpreted to be love was really good friendship and nothing more.

Last spring Mrs. Hitt went to Paris. Her husband did not accompany her. It had become the fashion for those of wealth and posttion who sought divorces to steal off to France quietly and file suit. So it began to be whispered that the rift in the Hitt family had become an irreparable breach.

This time gossip proved correct. For it was announced in Washington that the Paris courts had granted Mrs. Hitt a divorce and

of Boston. Long before her marriage in 1910 she had been noted here and abroad for her beauty. Prince Antoine-Albert Radziwill,

wealthy landowner of Poland, was an ardent suitor whose adulations found little favor with Miss Deacon but whose desire to marry her won eager approval from Mrs. Deacon. She sprang at the chance to garner a title for the family. PRINCE MADLY IN LOVE.

The Prince was madly in love. The girl was reluctant to accept him. But her mother was insistent. Members of his family had come close to the purple of regency in Lithuania. To understand the romance it may be better to go back to another episode, one that took place in 1877. That year in Newport Edward Parker Deacon married Florence Baldwin. She was the daughter of Rear Admiral Charles Baldwin, wealthiest man

In Paris in 1892 Deacon suspected his wife of impropriety with one Emile Abeille, a Parisian of dwarfish stature. Deacon shot and killed him when he saw Abeille enter Mrs. Deacon's room. At the trial Mrs. Deacon declared the clandestine visit innocent of improper purpose. Deacon was sentenced to only one year. Later he got a divorce and custody of the four children.

con returned to America and talked without restraint of the scandal, portraying himself as a champion of honor, He was confined in a

His wife was ostracized. Dea-

Mrs. Deacon, who had long since assumed the name of Mrs. Baldare living in Washington. Hitt win, again took Dorothy in tow. lives not many blocks away. Both Years afterward the Prince and are prominent figures in the social the girl met and a new courtship

Now Mrs. Hitt and her mother

functions of the National Capital.

They mingle in the same circles.

They have much in common. But

the one thing requisite to happi-

ness they have found they do not

quickly developed. The old scandel was revived for his ears by his family. His mother, the former Countess Branicka, a woman of determination, was obdurate when he proposed that he would marry the girl.

A WAR OF MOTHERS.

The two mothers were playing a keen game against each other. The mother of the prince had become a social leader in Rome's exotic society. She was looked upon as their sovereign by the expatriates in Italy. But Mrs. Baldwin was progressing socially. She was often with the Italian Prince Doria. It was in Rome that the Prince Radziwill and Dorothy Dea-

A very fitting match, mused the clever Mrs. Baldwin. An opportunity to revenge herself upon the old Princess Radziwill for her antagonistic attitude.

It must have been a strategically wonderful fight the girl's mother made, for she was opposed by the powerful hostility of the old princess and by her daughter's unwillingness. Yet her purposes triumphed. The young couple were married in 1910.

They were to have been united in a London church June 22. But when a somewhat distinguished crowd assembled, the principals did not appear. It was lamely explained that the proper documents had not been obtained. It is now thought that the prince's mother managed the delay. But they ultimately were married on July 5, in St. Mary's Church. Mrs. Baldwin was conspicuously triumphant in her demeanor. The bride was list

A LOVELESS MARRIAGE.

"A loveless marriage," they whispered.

And a loveless marriage it has proved. They are recalling incidents now

to show that it could not have been a marriage of love. One such instance was noted in May, 1910. when Mrs. Baldwin and her reluctant daughter lived at the old castle of Caprarola in Rome.

The Prince called one day to see Miss Deacon. She refused to receive him.

Society was aghast. Here was a prince whose mother's fortune was reputed to be \$20,000,000. And there was an American girl whose family tree was marred by a scandal that society had not forwhich society retus to forgive. Her wealth proved of little consequence. But her spurning of the Prince at that time gained her admiration for her de-

termination. The titled suitor's case was further embarrassing because his mother had threatened to cut him off without a penny if he married the Boston girl. He was dependent on the allowance from the aged Princess.

As matters turned out he inherited most of her estate.

Miss Deacon's personality in time overcame the drawback of the family scandal, and by degrees she was taken in tow by members of another high social group than the one to which the Princess Radgiwill belonged. This group was headed by the Princess San Faustino.

DEEMED HER INFERIOR.

But the Princess Radziwill, to the time of her death two years after her son's marriage, adamantly declined to accept her American daughter-in-law as a social equal. The prince himself. after the marriage, informed his wife that she could not expect to have the same position as he him-

Quite naturally, this attitude added fuel to the flame of her in-

Whether the Robert W. Goelets will join the parted couples of society is a subject of speculation. They have denied the possibility. But there have been rumors that Mrs. Goelet will sue for separation. If that happens it will be a triumph for Mrs. Ogden Goelet, who strenuously opposed the marriage that brought the woman known as "The Princess" into the family.

HIS WIFE "OSTRACIZED."

She is the former Fernanda Rocchi Riabouchinsky, second wike of Robert W. Goelet. His first was the very pretty Elsie Whelon, of Philadelphia, who obtained a divorce and became the wife of Henry Clews, jr.

In 1915 the passenger list of a ship arriving here bore the names of "Mr. and Mrs. Nicholas Risbouchinsky." She was a dashing young woman. He was believed to be a purchasing agent for Russia. He said his art collection was worth \$1,000,000. She was twenty-four and the daughter of Prof. Mariano Rocchi. ed University of Perugia, Raba